REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action Claim 1 was objected to for failing to provide antecedent basis for one of its terms, and all of the Claims were rejected as being anticipated by the inventor's previous patent, Egawa '282. By this response the antecedent basis problem of Claim 1 has been remedied, Claims 10-13 have been cancelled, and independent Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify the patentable distinction between Applicant's present invention and his invention of the '282 patent.

Particularly, both of Claims 1 and 8, as amended, require a photoelectric conversion apparatus arranged so that a first transfer unit (e.g., CCD1 in Fig. 5) transfers a first signal from a sensor array in a light projection ON state and a second signal from the sensor array in a light projection OFF state to a second transfer unit (e.g., CCD2 in Fig. 5) at different timings respectively (e.g., IRED, SH and RING in Fig. 6). Claims 1 and 8 also require that a transfer frequency of the second transfer unit is higher than that of the first transfer unit, as disclosed for example, at page 13, lines 11-14 in the Specification. Accordingly, in one aspect of the claimed invention, after the CCD1 transfers signals from a sensor array S under a light projection ON state to the CCD2, the CCD1 transfers signals from the sensor array S under a light projection OFF state to the CCD2.

On the other hand the disclosure of Applicant's '282 patent is similar to the prior art disclosed in the Specification of the present application regarding a distance measuring sensor wherein signals are transferred simultaneously (not at different timings) from the sensor array 11. That is, signals corresponding to both the ON and OFF states of

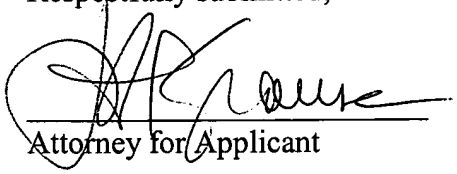
light projection are transferred simultaneously from a first CCD17 to a second CCD18. In this regard it is noted that an accumulation portion 12 transfers ON and OFF signals to accumulation portions 15 and 14 at different timings, but does not transfer the signals to a second transfer unit in the manner of Applicant's Claims 1 and 8. Instead, in the '282 patent, the accumulated signals corresponding to the ON and OFF states of light projection respectively are transferred simultaneously to the CCD 18 by the CCD 17. Thus, the accumulation portion 12 and the CCD17 of the '282 patent do not suggest the first transfer means recited in the amended independent Claims 1 and 8, and the CCD 17 is driven using the same pulses CK1 and CK2 as those of the CCD 18.

In view of the above, the cited reference of Egawa '282 does not disclose the first transfer unit of the present claims, and also fails to disclose the claimed transfer frequency relationship between the first and second transfer units of Applicant's Claims 1 and 8.

For all of these various reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 8 are patentably distinct over the '282 reference, and that all of the pending dependent claims are patentable for the same reasons. Accordingly, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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